

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 2

0530 Hours April 29, 2008

The next Situation Report will be April 29 2008 at 1700 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and reported tornadoes. ***National Weather Service confirmed an EF1 tornado in Brunswick County on 28 April. The Virginia Emergency Operations Center continues to receive reports of storm related damage from across the Commonwealth from several jurisdictions and state agencies. Multiple injuries have been reported but no storm related deaths have been confirmed. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#)***

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with limited augmented staffing. A ***conference call will be conducted today at 0900 hours with VDEM Region 1 and 5 localities, and Halifax County. A conference call will be conducted with state agencies at 1100 hours.***

State of Emergency: At 1855 hours 28 April Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. ***Governor Kaine will visit Suffolk today.***

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time. ***FEMA Region III has deployed a State Liaison Officer to the State EOC on 28 April. Additional staff will deploy on 29 April to include a Federal Coordinating Officer, Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division.***

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. ***City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.***

ESF 15 – External Affairs: Fielding local, national and international media inquiries.

WEATHER

Forecast: **Tuesday, 29 April:** Wind Advisory in effect until 1200 hrs, 29 April, for areas of SWVA; west winds 15-30 MPH with gusts up to 50 MPH; Mostly cloudy with a 30% chance of rain through this afternoon; high temperatures upper 50's to mid 60's; winds 5-15 MPH

Tuesday night: Frost Advisory in effect for areas of SWVA from midnight until 0900 hrs Wednesday, 30 April; partly cloudy; low temperatures upper 30's to low 40's; winds 5-15 MPH

Wednesday, 30 April: Mostly sunny; high temperatures mid 50's to mid 60's; winds 5-10 MPH

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators and Hazardous Materials Officers are responding to impacted localities as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue: *One SAR request made by Suffolk for 5 cadaver dog teams to do a third sweep of debris and damaged homes. Mission is in progress with start at 0800 hours 29 April.*

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services: Virginia Health Department (VHD)
Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC. VDH WTHD and local Red Cross activated to open shelters. Both Peninsula and Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Teams activated. Maryview Medical Center is receiving patients to augment surge.

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security: Virginia State Police (VSP)
VSP Division 1 has 12 troopers assisting Suffolk Police Department with traffic detours. In addition, 54 tactical field force troopers are staged at Suffolk Scale. Division 1 will supply 40 troopers and Division 3 will supply 16 troopers in relief at 1000 hours 29 April. Sgt. Kevin Barrick relieved the Suffolk City Public Information Officer at 0400 hours 29 April.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations: *ARC and faith based organizations are assessing needs in preparation for deployment in response to requests for feeding, crisis counseling, cleanup, and other functions.*

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
VDOT crews removed debris from I-95 North/South in Colonial Heights as a result of the severe weather on 28 April. No lanes were closed; however traffic was backed up at least two miles in each direction near Exit 53. Exit 53 northbound in Colonial Heights was closed to traffic so that emergency services can set up a triage site for the injuries suffered at Southpark Mall.

ESF 12 – Energy: *As of 0400 hours 29 April Dominion Virginia Power reported 2984 customers without power system wide. This includes 1,480 customers located in the Gloucester/Northern Neck and Southeastern Virginia area.*

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: *One request for aerial reconnaissance has been scheduled.*

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Drafting Governor's Executive Order, preparing Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Norfolk: Norfolk relayed City of Suffolk information due to a total loss of communication.

City of Suffolk: *Sentara Obici Hospital reported to be fully operational with some minor damage.* Approximately 200 injuries have been reported. Hazardous Materials Officer Ray Haring and Regional Coordinator Wallace Twigg are on scene. One shelter open at Kings Fork High School. Ten unsafe structures in the Driver Community. **Route 58 is**

open, but 460 at Route 10 is still blocked. Schools have been cancelled for the day.

- City of Virginia Beach:** Sent four medic units to City of Suffolk.
- City of Hampton:** Sent five Medic units to Suffolk Fire Station 5 3900 block of Ridge Road in Suffolk. Southside Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Strike Team members from Hampton Fire and Hampton Police were activated.
- York County:** The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with storm and possible tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.
- City of Chesapeake:** Sent 5 engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk. Emergency Management Staff stood down at 1957 hours 28 April.
- City of Colonial Heights:** Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area. Multiple buildings reported damaged. Building Inspectors and Structural Engineers on-scene. Media sources reporting commercial damage to be approximately 1 Million dollars. ***Chesterfield fire units supported this response.***
- Isle of Wight County:** Severe weather caused minor damage to homes and trees in the area. A preliminary damage assessment completed at 1925 hours 28 April indicates that twelve homes have incurred roof damage at an approximate total damage cost of \$125K to \$150K. Emergency Management is continuing to monitor the situation and will update as events unfold.
- Halifax County:** Severe weather caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and three homes were affected. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed. The estimated damage to private property is \$500,000. No damage to public facilities and no roads were closed or damaged. No reported injuries or fatalities. No shelters necessary.
- Brunswick County:** ***Tornado caused damage to 10-12 homes. Initial Damage Assessment conducted by Local Emergency Management Officials evening of 28 April. IDA results were received by VEOC. There is substantial tree damage. No injuries. American Red Cross staged at Lawrenceville Airport. Displaced individuals are being put in hotels. No plans to open a shelter at this time. NWS Assessment Team was on scene 28 April and confirmed an EF1 tornado in Brunswick County on 28 April. County schools are opening late today.***

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